

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 02475 170811 Z

10

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W
----- 087822

P R 161307 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1880

INFO RUESKG / AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0591

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

S E C R E T TEHRAN 2475

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (P A R A O N E)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, AU, IR, US

SUBJ: KUWAIT REQUEST FOR AIR COVER

REF: TEHRAN 2372, AMMAN 1972

1. MFA POLITICAL UNDERSECRETARY FARTASH CONVOKED DCM APRIL 16 TO GIVE US GOI REACTION TO SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH KUWAIT' S AIR COVER PROBLEMS (PARAS 2 AND 3 STATE 66152), AS SET FORTH BY AMBASSADOR TO FARTASH ON APRIL 12 (REF A).

2. FARTASH SAID IIAF HAD CONSIDERED MATTER OF PROVIDING AIR COVER FOR KUWAIT. ITS JUDGMENT WAS THAT IIAF HAD STRIKE CAPABILITY AGAINST ENEMY FORCES IN KUWAIT BUT VAHDATI AIR FORCE BASE FROM WHICH IIAF WOULD OPERATE WAS TOO FAR AWAY FROM KUWAIT FOR ANY KIND OF SUSTAINED AIR COVER PROTECTION. IN SHORT, IF KUWAIT WANTED SUSTAINED PROTECTION IIAF NOT IN POSITION AT PRESENT TO PROVIDE IT.

3. FARTASH ADDED GOI WAS WONDERING WHETHER SAUDIS HAD BASES AND AIRCRAFT FOR THIS PURPOSE. HE FRANKLY SAID IIAF DID NOT RPT NOT KNOW AND HE WONDERED WHETHER SUCH INFORMATION WERE AVAILABLE TO USG AND WHETHER USG COULD ENLIGHTEN GOI.

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4. COMMENT: WE ARE INCLINED TO TAKE FARTASH' S REPLY AS
WORKING LEVEL REACTION WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY CHECKED OUT WITH SHAH
BUT WHICH DOES NOT FULLY REFLECT SHAH' S VIEWS ON SUBJECT.
OUR VIEW IS THAT AMMAN' S 1972 IS MORE ACCURATE READING OF SHAH' S
POSITION ON IRAN' S RELATIONS WITH KUWAIT IN LATTER' S PRESENT
DIFFICULTIES.
HELMS

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

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JIDDA
KUWAIT
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